## Why be Water Wise in your Garden?



### Save Water & Money

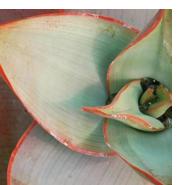
Did you know that approximately half the water you use at your home is for your garden? You can reduce outside water use by 20 to 40 percent by following the steps outlined in this brochure.

### Reduce Maintenance

A water wise garden means a low maintenance garden. By following the principles of a water wise garden, you can reduce pruning, weeding and pest control tasks, leaving more time to enjoy your garden and reducing maintenance costs.

### Appropriate For Our Climate

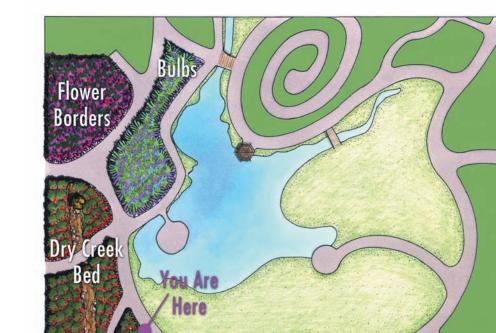
We live in a semi-arid climate. Water is a precious resource and in limited supply in California. Much of California, including Santa Barbara, has a Mediterranean climate typified by warm dry summers and cool moist winters. Well-designed, water wise gardens provide lush outdoor living spaces that thrive on a minimum of water and maintenance. And by design, they are imbued with a sense of place... a garden appropriate to the sunny, Mediterranean climate in which we live.







# Take a Walk Through the Park











shaded area Bed H & I





### Principles of a Water Wise Garden

### Planning & Design

A good landscape begins with thorough planning and evaluation. Consider the existing soil and climatic conditions of your site and decide how much time and money you are willing to spend on maintenance. Each of these considerations will influence the design of your landscape.

### Limit Lawn Areas

Plant lawn where it will be used for a specific purpose and reduce the size to only what is necessary.

#### Know Your Soil

Different soil types absorb water differently. Find out what type of soil is in your garden, so that you can choose plants wisely and then water to the appropriate needs of the plants and soil.

#### Know Your Plants

Select water wise plants and group plants with similar water and sun requirements together, creating "hydrozones." This will help make your irrigation more efficient. Choose plants that grow to the desired size, without the need for pruning.

### Irrigate Efficiently

Properly designed irrigation systems apply water efficiently. Use drip irrigation or rotating nozzles where ever possible. Use separate irrigation valves for each "hydrozone" and a smart irrigation controller.

### Use Mulch

Mulch covers and cools the soil, minimizes evaporation of water from the soil, minimizes weed growth, slows erosion, and improves the quality of the soil. Apply mulch over all bare soil and remember to add more as it breaks down.

### Provide Regular Maintenance

Every garden requires some maintenance. Periodic pruning, fertilizing, organic pest control, maintaining a good layer of mulch and weeding will keep your garden healthy and attractive.



The water wise demonstration garden portion of the park is depicted on this diagram, though you will find many plants in other areas of the garden that are water wise as well.

### Garden Tour:

- 1.) Take a plant list from the dispenser located next to the interpretive sign.
- 2.) As you walk through the garden, look for plant labels. The letters correspond with the bed and the numbers correspond with the specific plant on the list.



flower borders Bed A



bulbs & groundcovers Bed B & D Bed C



sunny area Bed E, F, G





## Efficient Irrigation

An essential component of landscaping.

Plants and soil are good indicators of when to water. Even though the soil surface is dry, it may still be moist where plant roots are located. Use a soil probe: If the soil is moist at the root zone, there is no need to water.



### Use the online landscape watering calculator

You can easily determine how much and how often to water your garden by using the landscape watering calculator at SaveWaterSB.org. Just enter your zip code, soil type, plants, and sprinklers into the calculator and it will provide you with a watering schedule.

### Adjust your schedule with the weather

The "water budget" or "seasonal adjust" feature on your sprinkler timer lets you easily change your watering schedule as the weather changes. To know what to set your "water budget" to, check the weekly Watering Index at SaveWaterSB.org.

### Smart irrigation controllers

Smart irrigation controllers automatically calculate and adjust the irrigation schedule using local weather data and your plant and soil type, thus providing the right amount of water to maintain healthy growing conditions.

### Install a rain sensor

Rain sensors are easily attached to sprinkler timers to automatically shut off your irrigation system during, and immediately after, a rain event.

### Change your sprinkler heads to rotating nozzles

Rotating nozzles for pop-up spray heads apply water more slowly and uniformly, using 20% less water.

### Change the battery in your sprinkler timer

If the backup battery is dead in your sprinkler timer, a power outage will cause your schedule to reset to "default," watering about twice as much as necessary. Replace the battery at least once a year.



## Design Areas

Throughout this demonstration garden are different design areas and microclimates, which are described below.



resting phase.

### **Bulbs** and **Groundcovers**

Most bulbs put on a spectacular show and then die back for a good portion of the year. To provide year-round interest, include a groundcover through which the bulbs can grow each season. When they finish their show, the bulbs collect energy for the next season as the foliage dries and turns brown. Groundcovers will minimize the unsightly foliage during this important phase.

Dry Creek Bed

able mulch and topsoil. Plants that tolerate occasional "wet

feet", like Juncus (Juncus patens) and Cape Rush (Chon-

bed. These plants also tolerate the dry summer months

dropetalum tectorum), work well on the edges of the creek

In gardens that have seasonal drainage

channel the water through the garden,

preventing it from washing away valu-

areas, a dry creek bed can be used to



### Sunny Area

Just as there are plants that tolerate varying degrees of shade, not all sunloving plants tolerate the hot afternoon sun of a south or west facing exposure, or the intensity of reflected heat from a wall. The key to a successful sunny garden is, again, learning the needs and tolerances of the plants. Remember to group your plants, sun-loving or shade loving, according to their water needs, so that you avoid over-watering many to maintain one water-hungry plant in their midst.

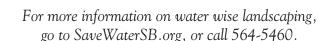


### Shaded Area

This garden's shady areas vary from bright shade to very deep shade. Plants that are found in such

areas appreciate the cooler air and soil temperatures and the fact that their water supply evaporates less quickly. There are plants that will grow happily in dappled shade, but languish and weaken in deep shade. So it pays to do your research when choosing your shade garden plant palette.





### Produced by:

City of Santa Barbara Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments





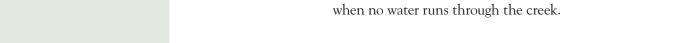












Flower Borders

shrubs and groundcovers, carefully placed, give skeletal

structure to the border and provide intermittent color

in those few periods when the big bloomers are in their

A well-designed flower border is one

ing times provide at least two peak

bloom phases each year. Evergreen

in which plants with staggered bloom-

Alice Keck Brochure June2011.indd